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22 August 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: PL/PS

SUBJECT: Comments on JCS Memorandum for General Smith;
subject: "Policy on Repatriation of Chinese and
North Korean Prisoners," dated 8 August 1951

1. The FE Division welcomes the proposed JCS policy decisions to (a) give safe haven to defector POW's who do not desire repatriation, and (b) repatriate to Formosa all Chinese POW's who are acceptable to the Chinese Nationalist Government and who wish to come under the ~~25X10~~ Nationalist aegis. Acceptance of these principles will immeasurably



2. We agree that disadvantageous Communist reactions listed in paragraph 3 undoubtedly would follow a unilateral U.N. announcement of the above policy decisions. Therefore, the following counter techniques to lend psychological advantage to the U.N. decisions are recommended:

a. At the outset, to proceed with full and complete repatriation, sending back first those who were most vocally opposed to returning to Communist hands and, thereafter, following the complaints of neutral observers and world opinion, to announce the policy outlined above;

b. To delay announcing the proposed U.N. policy until after the POW's have expressed their refusal to be repatriated to a group of neutral observers such as the Red Cross or an interview board including Chinese and/or North Korean POW spokesmen.

c. To proceed as outlined in a. and then switch to b.

To employ such a technique as b. would of course require allowing the Communists to establish a reciprocal board, including U.N. personnel who would hear the refusal of U.N. defectors (if any

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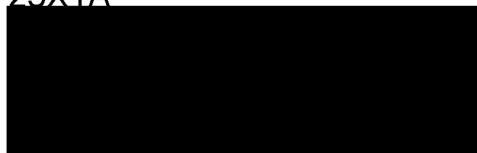
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are claimed) to repatriation. However, it is believed the advantage would rest with the U.N. Communist refusal to participate in such a mutual program could be turned to definite propaganda advantage.

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Chief, FE Division

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